

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 208320

12

ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: ARA/LA:RBENTLEY

APPROVED BY: ARA:HARYAN

----- 079913

R 031751Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208320

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 208320 SENT SAN JOSE INFO PANAMA
DATED SEPT 2.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208320

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, CS

SUBJECT:MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. SUMMARY. I MET WITH ODUBER IN MIAMI THURSDAY. MUCH
OF WHAT HE SAID YOU DOUBTLESS KNOW BUT THE BASIC THEMES
WERE UPBEAT AND COOPERATIONAL. THE WAVE OF ANTI-US FEELING
OF A YEAR AGO HAS RECEDED. THERE IS ONLY ONE REAL SOURCE
OF FRICTION -- PANAMA.

2. MIDDLE AMERICA. ODUBER PERCEIVES A GROUP OF 14 NATIONS
- CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO, VENEZUELA AND THE CARIBBEAN
WITH IMPORTANT COMMON PURPOSES AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 208320

FURTHER INTEGRATION. THERE ARE TWO SUBGROUPINGS TO MIDDLE
AMERICA.

3. THE CENTRAL AMERICAN SUBGROUP. ODUBER IS APPREHENSIVE

ABOUT MUCH OF CENTRAL AMERICA. HIS OWN PERIOD OF TENSION IS PAST. BUT NICARAGUA IS UNCERTAIN. SOMOZA IS DISTRESSED BECAUSE OF THE SANDINISTA FLAP THE CHANGE OF US AMBASSADORS AND THE COLLAPSE OF VIETNAM. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO SOMOZA EXCEPT THE RADICAL MADMEN. ODUBER, AT SOME RISK TO

HIS OWN LIBERAL CREDENTIALS, INTENDS TO URGE SOMOZA TO A REFORMIST COURSE. HONDURAS CAN'T ORGANIZE ITSELF. SALVADOR IS DOING NOTHING IN THE WAY OF SOCIAL REFORM; GUATEMALA LOOKS A BIT BETTER.

4. THE OTHERS. ODUBER IS MORE BULLISH ABOUT THE OTHER MIDDLE AMERICA SUBGROUPS OF MEXICO, COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA AND THE CARIBBEAN. HE MAINTAINS AND INTENDS TO CULTIVATE THE STRONGEST RELATIONS WITH THEM. HE PROPOSES A SPECIAL EFFORT WITH MANLEY.

5. VENEZUELA. COSTA RICA WAS HAVING REAL TROUBLE WITH THE GOV BUREAUCRACY IN SEEKING PROJECT APPROVAL FOR USE IN OIL PAYMENTS UNTIL ODUBER RAISED THE ISSUE DIRECTLY WITH CARLOS ANDREZ PEREZ. PEREZ IS MUCH CALMER THAN A YEAR AGO. NOW FOUR PROJECTS ARE APPROVED (SCHOOLS, ROADS, THE UNIVERSITY) AND TWO MORE ARE ON THE WAY. ODUBER IS PUSHING THE OTHER CENTRAL AMERICANS TO TAKE BETTER ADVANTAGE OF THE VENEZUELAN FACILITY.

6. COLOMBIA. COLOMBIA IS THE PERFECT COUNTRY FOR THE GOVERNMENTS OF CENTRAL AMERICA TO WORK; SINCE MEXICO AND VENEZUELA ARE JEALOUS OF EACH OTHER. LOPEZ INTERNATIONAL STATURE IS GROWING, THOUGH HIS HOME FRONT IS A MESS.

7. PANAMA. BUT FOR THE PRESIDENTS OF COSTA RICA, COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA, TORRIJOS WOULD HAVE MOVED FAR CLOSER TO THE NON-ALIGNED. THE CANAL, AT ALL EVENTS, IS THE NUMBER ONE ISSUE IN US-LATIN RELATIONS. HE IS PLEASED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE BACK ON THE TRACK. ALL MIDDLE AMERICA IS GOING TO KEEP US PUBLIC OPINION ON PANAMA THROUGH CHURCH, CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 208320

TRADE UNION AND INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS. A SIGNED TREATY BEFORE THE ELECTION IS NOT ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

8. MEXICO. DON LUIS ENTERTAINS LARGE VISIONS OF HIS FUTURE. THE TRIP CANNOT BE EXPLAINED EXCEPT AS AN EXPENSIVE SEARCH FOR VOTES. CENTRAL AMERICA WILL NATURALLY SUPPORT HIM. VENEZUELA'S ENTHUSIASM WILL BE HELD IN CHECK. MOYA WILL SUCCEED ECHEVERRIA.

9. CUBA. THE CUBAN ISSUE IS SETTLED, AT LEAST FOR ITS INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION. POLITICALLY, COSTA RICA WILL EXPAND TRADE BUT POSTPONE RECOGNITION. THE CUBANS HAVE APPROACHED HIM BUT HE TOLD THEM NO. HE WAS CURIOUS TO

KNOW WHETHER THERE WAS A LINK BETWEEN DETENTE AND OUR CUBAN POLICY. I TOLD HIM THERE WAS NOT. HE AND OTHERS IN MIDDLE AMERICA CHERISH THE IDEA THAT CUBA MAY DETACH ITSELF FROM THE SOVIET UNION OVER TIME, AS ITS RELATIONS ELSEWHERE ARE IMPROVED.

10. PUERTO RICO. THIS LEAD TO THE COMMONWEALTH. WE DISCUSSED LAST WEEK'S EVENTS AT THE UN. HE INTENDS TO TRY TO REBUILD THE OLD PUERTO RICO-VENEZUELA-COSTA RICA TRIANGLE, NOW THAT EACH IS GOVERNED BY A POLITICAL HEIR OF A MEMBER OF THE MUNOZ-BETANCOURT-FIGUERES CABAL. IN ANY EVENT, ODUBER WILL HELP ARGUE THE PUERTO RICO CASE.

11. CHILE. HE ALSO FEELS HE WAS SET UP IN THE AFFAIR OF THE UN WORKING GROUPS. FACIO WILL CALL US MID-SEPTEMBER FROM NEW YORK TO CONSIDER WHERE WE GO FROM HERE -- OASHRC PERHAPS.

12. BELIZE. HE THINKS GUATEMALA IS LESS RIGID NOW THAN BEFORE. PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME FOR A US INTERMEDIATION. FACIO WILL ALSO TALK WITH US ABOUT BELIZE. HE IS IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH BOTH PRICE AND MOLINA.

13. ON HAK TRIP. WHEN THE SECRETARY RETURNS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST HE SHOULD CONSIDER AN LA TRIP.

14. BILATERAL ISSUES. WE DID NOT DISCUSS THEM AT ANY LENGTH. HE DID SAY HE WAS DISTRESSED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 208320

FOUNDATION GRANT TO A VERY RADICAL BUNCH OF COSTA RICANS AND THAT HE HAD ARRANGED THINGS WELL WITH UNITED BRANDS, TO BE ANNOUNCED NEXT WEEK. BUT BEYOND THAT, WE AGREED THESE ISSUES WERE SAFELY IN THE CAPABLE HANDS OF THE RESPECTIVE AMBASSADORS. ROBINSON UNQUOTE ROBINSON

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE208320
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/LA:RBENTLEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750305-0190
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197509103/baaaaajc.tel
Line Count: 148
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <01 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, CS, XM, US, (RODGERS, WILLIAM D), (ODUBER QUIROS, DANIEL)
To: BOGOTA
GUATEMALA
CARACAS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006